



National Marine Manufacturers Association
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May 30, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
1404 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), I would like to commend you for your sponsorship of the Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003, H.R. 1662. As you know, the current interpretation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has strayed significantly from the original intent of the law and does not take into account the impact on the quality of life of people directly affected by ESA classifications. Restrictions on access to waterways that often result from these classifications are a grave concern to the boating community and could cost the entire recreational industry billions of dollars.

NMMA is a national trade association representing more than 1,400 companies that manufacture recreational boats, engines, accessories and parts. Together we unanimously support your legislation to implement the ESA based on the application of sound science. NMMA applauds the bill's common sense requirement for peer review of government ESA activities. We hail the inclusion of the States, landowners and other stakeholders in the listing, delisting and recovery planning processes called for in H.R. 1662. In addition, we salute the provision for consideration of commercial data in assessing the economic impact of ESA classifications and recovery.

The boating way of life is dependent on the good health of the environment and the quality of our natural resources, particularly our waterways. NMMA stands ready to assist you in any way that we can to promote this much-needed reform legislation and its goal of striking a reasonable balance between the needs of endangered species and humans. We have already enlisted the support of our members in raising awareness of the issue within the recreational boating industry and on Capitol Hill. Please do not hesitate to let us know where we can be most useful and thank you again for your leadership in reforming the ESA.

Sincerely,

Monita W. Fontaine, Esq.
Vice President, Government Relations

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Together, making boating the #1 choice in recreation.